

10-12-2012

Montana Kaimin, October 12, 2012

Students of The University of Montana, Missoula

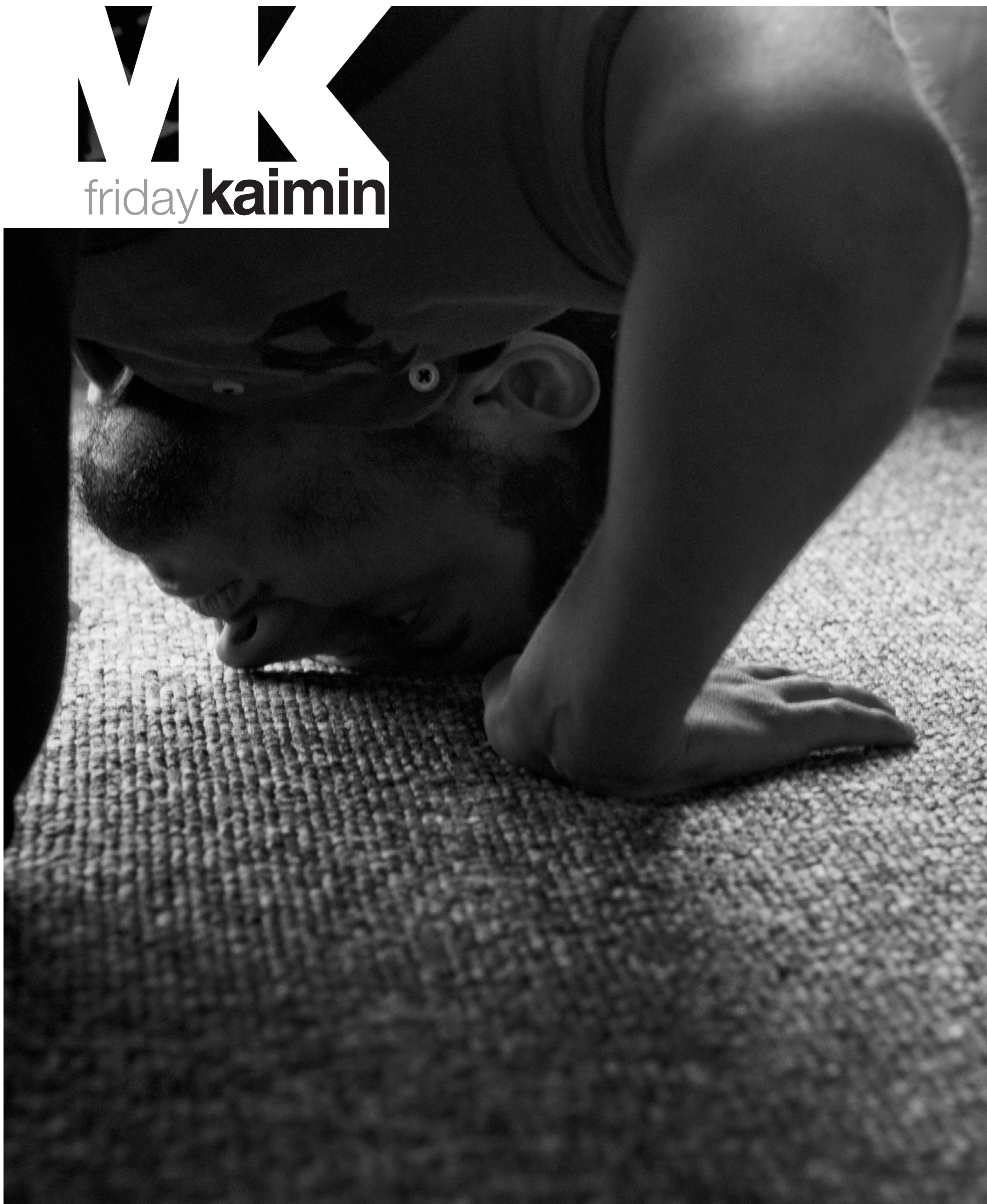
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INSIDE ISLAM





SCIENCE COLUMN

THE HUME'N EXPERIENCE

Don't be a dope(r)

By Alice Martin

Even if NBC doesn't know the meaning of the phrase "spoiler alert" (anyone else tune in for Missy Franklin's race only to watch an ad declaring her the winner?), the Olympics were still the highlight of summer viewing. Catching discus throwing or swimming over an IPA at the Iron Horse can turn anyone into a sports fan, usually because it puts all fans on the same trivia level. No, you didn't know who the Fab Five were, pre-July. You probably still don't. But almost immediately after the Olympics ended, a scandal shook the sports world: Lance Armstrong announced he would no longer contest charges leveled by former teammates that he participated in illegal doping.

Olympic winners and world-class athletes are not immune to the lure of illegal performance enhancers. It has become a race between two types of biochemists: those who develop the "invisible" drugs and those who develop a method to test for them. The list of these world-record holders (and dopers) is both impressive and depressing: Marion Jones, Jason Giambi, Tim Montgomery and Bill Romanowski are all among a truly endless sea of athletes who have tested positive for banned substances.

It's possible to argue that the feats we expect of professional athletes might be impossible without these substances. The science behind exercise physiology and training has improved exponentially over the last century, but it cannot improve forever. If world records are to continue being broken, something in the human body must be altered, whether through genetics or through biochemistry.

Yet it feels wrong to us, as spectators watching these people, to think that they had help. It's cheating. Even blood doping, where athletes extract their own blood to inject later right before an event, seems deceitful. And yet the only thing they technically used was material from their own body, separated only by timing. It could be considered a truly natural technique.

Here's what it boils down to: Humans are not, by the standards of the animal kingdom, all that impressive. Those biceps you sculpted at the gym don't look like anything but tenderloin to a lion. It is the self-contained, human-friendly environment that we have created through tools that ranks as our main biological achievement. So why do we shun biochemistry as a tool for enhancing our physical performance? Because doping gets you something for nothing, and to us, that's breaking the rules. You can slave away at the gym or on the field, and someone else who put a few drops of "the clear" under their tongue is still going to break the home run record.

Ask Barry Bonds.

alice.martin@umontana.edu

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Illustration by Callan Berry

BIG UPS | BACKHANDS

Big ups to the resilience of campus trees. You're still green even when the rest of town fades to orange, thanks in part (99 percent) to the relentless season-defeating watering we deem essential. Long live Montucky bluegrass!

Backhands to the vice presidential debate Tuesday night. True statesmen in Kentucky's southern setting ought to settle things like gentlemen: #pistolsatdawn.

Big ups to University Dining Services for being chosen

for PETA2's "Most Vegan-Friendly College Contest." Quinoa and legume lovers rejoice! Hail seitan!

Backhands to the Google image search results for "completely wrong" turning up nothing but Mitt's mug. Just goes to show that the lamestream media is totally biased! Romney meant to say he was "completely right" about his 47 percent comments, sil-lies.

Big ups to Senate candidates Denny Rehberg and Jon

Tester for spending for \$15 million combined on their campaigns. While that money would probably sway voters better if it granted them meals or 8-balls of coke, at least there's entertaining television being produced.

Backhands to UM for loving freshmen so much that by the time seniors turn in their graduation applications, all resources have been spent just getting us to that point but no further. Get scared, kiddies!

Cover photo by Samuel Wilson

CORRECTION:

The freshman class at the University of Montana is 493 students smaller this fall compared with fall 2011. A Kaimin story titled "Why not UM?" that ran Oct. 11, and incorrectly reported the enrollment drop for freshman as more than twice that number. The story also discussed percentages of freshman who are accepted and then enroll at UM, but that number for this year was incorrect. The Office of Planning, Budgeting and Analysis doesn't have the percentage for this fall yet. Several Kaimin reporters worked on this story. Although the Office of Planning, Budgeting and Analysis informed one reporter that the freshman enrollment number was incorrect, the message was not relayed to the editor or the lead reporter writing the story.

montanakaimin

Newsroom Phone 406-243-4310

Business Phone 406-243-6541

The Montana Kaimin, in its 115th year, is published by the students of the University of Montana, Missoula. The UM School of Journalism uses the Montana Kaimin for practice courses but assumes no control over policy or content. The Montana Kaimin is printed on campus by Printing and Graphics.

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MISSOULA

Ethnic-stereotype Halloween costumes cause stir

Jessica Roden
Montana Kaimin

Some students may be looking forward to dressing up as Pocahontas this Halloween, but the underlying ethnic stereotypes of this costume, along with many others, have some University of Montana students concerned.

Last October, students at Ohio University made national headlines with their campaign “We’re a culture, not a costume.”

The student group Students Teaching About Racism in Society released five posters with students of different ethnicities holding a photo of how their ethnicity is portrayed in costume. The posters state “This is not who I am, and this is not okay.”

Frances Eagleman, a Chippewa-Cree student at UM, said she is not offended when she sees costumes that depict Native Americans, but she thinks most costumes are not an accurate depiction.

“Some things you just can’t be offended by,” Eagleman said. “Otherwise you are going to be offended your whole life.”

She is the secretary for the UM Kyi-Yo Native American Student Association.

Eagleman said she thinks some students at UM imagine Native American formal dress as what appears in costume stores — feathers, headdresses and war paint.

Native Americans use intricate costumes for ceremonies and events. Eagleman said such outfits can take months to make.

Though she is not personally bothered, Eagleman said she understands why some people might be offended by ethnically stereotypical costumes.

Tanisha Muneoka, the vice president of the UM Black Student Union, said she was shocked when she saw four men who had painted their faces black at a Halloween



Taylor Romack/ Montana Kaimin

Mike Tobiason and his wife, Jennifer, search for the perfect mask at Spirit Halloween off Brooks Street.

See HALLOWEEN, page 12

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Like the Knights Templar
- 8 Performers, e.g.
- 15 In
- 16 Kiss offerer
- 17 Unit often counted
- 18 Big rigs
- 19 Cowboy Tony
- 20 Writer of creamy messages
- 21 Lion's prey
- 23 Ancient Greek storage vessel
- 27 Hook, line and sinker
- 30 Mantegna's "Criminal Minds" role
- 32 The Once-__: "The Lorax" character
- 33 March of Dimes' original crusade
- 35 Leaded fuel component
- 36 Rush discovery
- 37 Pizza places
- 38 Wimbledon champ before Pete
- 39 It didn't get its no. until 1939
- 40 Urban cruisers
- 41 "___ see"
- 42 Determination
- 45 Alp ending
- 46 Fleece sources
- 48 People
- 49 Lines at the hosp.
- 50 Oscar winners' lines
- 53 On top of things
- 56 Make it right
- 60 H.G. Wells classic, and a hint to this puzzle's theme found in the answers to starred clues
- 66 "... by yonder blessed ___ I swear": Romeo
- 67 Muse of Hughes
- 68 Author Bagnold
- 69 Squealed
- 70 Sharp rival
- 71 Thickness measures

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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30			31			32			33	34			
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41				42	43				44		45		
46			47		48					49			
			50	51						52			
53	54	55							56		57	58	59
60						61	62	63	64	65			
66						67					68		
69						70					71		

By Joe Samulak and Peter A. Collins

10/12/12

DOWN

- 1 Buddy
- 2 Mobile home?: Abbr.
- 3 "Midnight's Children" author
- 4 "Typee" sequel
- 5 "Armies of the Night" author
- 6 Hit the road, say
- 7 Hard part of mathematics?
- 8 "What a relief!"
- 9 Show again
- 10 "Breakfast at Tiffany's" author
- 11 Royale: Lake Superior national park
- 12 "The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven" author
- 13 Thrive, in Rx's
- 14 Part of CBS: Abbr.
- 21 ___ monkey
- 22 "This is a bad time"
- 24 Continues despite hardship
- 25 "The Caine Mutiny" author
- 26 Radar of TV

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

T	O	T	A	L		O	H	M		P	H	A	S	E
A	R	E	N	A		C	A	B		R	E	C	U	R
B	E	A	T	W	I	T	H	A		H	A	M	M	E
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						R	E	V		R	O	C		
S	T	R	A	Y	D	O	G	S		S	H	E	L	T
W	H	A	L	E			O	V	A		E	R	N	E
A	R	I	E	S		G	N	P		T	R	I	O	S
R	O	T	C		F	E	Z			P	O	N	C	A
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S	T	E	A	D		P	E	T		G	L	O	B	E

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- 28 Common boot feature
- 29 They affect stock prices
- 31 UAR member
- 34 Fertility clinic cells
- 43 That, in Oaxaca
- 44 Brandy letters
- 47 Quaint memory aid
- 49 Respect
- 51 Farm female
- 52 "Friendly skies" co.
- 53 Casino fixtures
- 54 "Halt!"
- 55 Near-eternity
- 57 Upscale hotel chain
- 58 Get exactly right
- 59 Culminates
- 61 Annoy
- 62 Anger
- 63 Men's patriotic org.
- 64 Skater Midori
- 65 Enclose, in a way

AYN RAND'S EPIC NOVEL
OF A WORLD ON THE BRINK



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Different but not dull: Matisyahu makes it to Missoula



Courtesy photo

Christopher Allen Montana Kaimin

Quit it with the beard stuff already, and turn up the volume.

Matisyahu is back in Missoula with a new record and a new look. Saturday night, the rapper will perform songs from 2012's "Spark Seeker" at the Wilma Theatre.

"The band is on fire," Matisyahu said in an interview with the Kaimin. "We're really enjoying ourselves, and I feel like the show is better than it's ever been."

Matisyahu caught the attention of both his fans and the media when the world's first Hasidic rapper, famous for his Orthodox beard and yarmulke, decided to stop into Supercuts back in December and make a big aesthetic change.

When asked why he chose Supercuts, his response was simple:

"I didn't own a razor."

Fans and the media quickly reacted with surprise after he posted a smartphone pic with his freshly shorn face on his Twitter account.

The Jewish rapper made a name for himself in the mid- to late-2000s with his own brand of reggae, dancehall and beat-boxing. Now based out of Los Angeles, Matisyahu has been exploring some new

musical territory, but the message is relatively unchanged: positivity and evolution.

"This is what I love to do," Matisyahu said. "I continue to play shows, and I feel like I continue to grow."

Now, after almost 10 years in the music business, Matisyahu found himself needing a change.

"There's a lot to be cynical about in this industry," he said.

For the new album, which dropped in July, Matisyahu teamed up with producer Kool Kojack, who has collaborated with artists such as Flo Rida, Ke\$ha, Nicki Minaj and Katy Perry among many others. Together they experimented with pop and electro-beats playing a more prominent musical role.

"We were in a very creative space and open space," Matisyahu said. "It's not always about how talented someone is or how well your musical visions mesh. In the future, I'll only work with these kinds of people."

This marks the second time that Matisyahu has made it to the Missoula Valley. In the summer of 2007, Matis shared his trademark blend of reggae and hip-hop with hundreds of fans in Caras Park, while dozens of curious and ticketless

Missoulians climbed the concrete and the rafters of the Higgins Street Bridge, hoping to catch a glimpse of the show.

"Man, there's something cool about little mountain towns," he said. "People are cooler. People are pretty chill."

Matisyahu has had the opportunity to flex some acting chops this year with a role in "The Possession," a supernatural horror film that reached number one at the box office.

"It's similar to when you're making music," he said. "You're trying to get to that same kind of zone."

"The Possession" is unique in its focus on Jewish characters and themes, which attracted the Pennsylvania native.

"It was definitely a big part of why I wanted to do (the movie)," he said.

The movie centers on a box that becomes haunted by a malevolent spirit from Jewish folklore known as a dybbuk, which is thought by some to have the ability to haunt and possess the living.

Back to the music: Matisyahu's fall tour will hit up dozens of college towns around the country and wrap up Dec. 16.

christopher.allen@umontana.edu

MATISYAHU AT THE WILMA

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In addition, Professor McPherson will lead a seminar that day from 3:10-4:30 in the Gallagher Business Building 123, "Why Military History? Antietam as a Case Study."

Co-sponsored by the College of Arts & Sciences and the Department of History

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CULTURE HOW TO [Cope with the last season of 'Jersey Shore']

By Eben Keller

Sit down. Are you sitting down yet? Good. Here, take this box of tissues and this sadness pillow. Are you ready? It's "Jersey Shore's" last season. I know, I know: Where else will you get your fill of orange douchebags with hair sharp enough to pop a balloon?

Let's face it: There's a reason you turned to bottom-of-the-barrel programming in the first place. Laughing at idiots surrounded by idiots makes you feel better about

that time you were called an idiot by the valedictorian of your class. It gives you a much-needed outlet for your own judgment. Luckily for you, every channel has dumbed down its programming in order to cater to the lowest common denominator.

It's natural to miss Snooki, JWOWW and the rest, but breathe easy, because you can do a few things to make life a little sweeter after they're gone.

Option 1

Write a dissertation

You've watched, you've laughed and you've studied. Now is your chance to prove to the whole world it wasn't a complete waste of time. I mean, it obviously was, but let's not admit that just yet. This will give you a chance to watch, watch and watch again. "I can't believe he punched her in the face!" Well now you get to replay that scene 50 times in one afternoon because you're doing research, doctor.

Option 2

Fill that void

Here it comes. You ready for it? Honey motherfrackin' Boo Boo. Yeah. You knew that was going to be mentioned the second you started reading, didn't you? Smart cookie. Well, here it is, folks, the worst of the worst. If you ever wondered what a real-life frog-person looks and sounds like and what their demon-spawn do during their free time, then look no further. Prepare your pedestal of judgment and embrace the Boo Boo.



Illustration by Callan Berry

Option 3

Read a goddamn book

Your brain hates you after filling it with GTL for six years. Hell, I hate you for it, too. So maybe try turning off the TV and picking up one of those book-things you've heard so much about. I'm not implying "Jersey Shore" fans don't read books — just that "Fifty Shades of Grey" isn't exactly *mentally* stimulating literature. Maybe give something back to the brain you've been poisoning with reality television. Or not. YOLO.

Reality TV is like the worst kind of junk food. Remember when you got sick from eating too many Funyuns and swore them off forever? But then two months later you stumbled down to 7-Eleven after last call and you just couldn't stop yourself. You know it's bad for you, but for whatever reason you just keep going back. Well, now they've canceled Funyuns, and you realize how much you always needed them.

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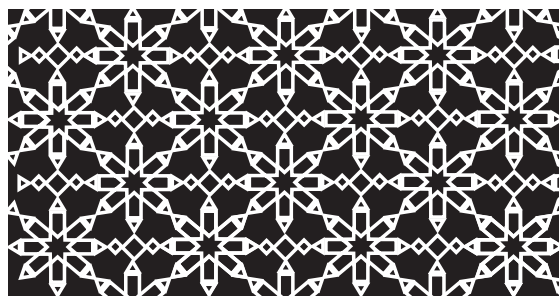
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INSIDE ISLAM

SALVATORE FERRARA'S near-death experience at the age of 11 began a spiritual quest that would last his whole lifetime. Casting aside his Catholic upbringing, he began to look for something that answered his most burning questions.

Ferrara asked his mother to drive him to the public library in his hometown of Newark, Del., where he pulled books randomly off the shelf in the World Religion section. Throughout the years Ferrara examined any religion that rang true to him. His search led him from Zoroastrianism to Wicca to indigenous Indian practices, and ultimately, in 2008, to Islam. He has been a devoted Muslim ever since.

Ferrara, 30, is now a student at the University of Montana and the president of the Muslim Student Association, is married to a Muslim woman and gives the weekly sermon at the MSA House.

"For me, I define myself as Muslim ... Where I'm going in life, how I act, what I eat, it's all defined by Islam," Ferrara said. "Allah has guided me to the best life anyone can have."

Ferrara said he initially looked into Islam to prove to a woman who he was interested in that a Muslim woman could date a man with tattoos, of which he has several. He said his interest in Islam "sprouted like a tree."

Islam appealed to Ferrara's rational side, with many scientific

claims found within the Quran proved by modern research, such as a rudimentary Big Bang theory and the egg-shape of the earth. He found nothing to discredit the Islamic holy book and began to identify with the moral uprightness espoused by the Prophet Muhammad.

Ferrara admits that initially he didn't know much about Islam, but the more he studied the more his faith grew.

Ferrara still remembers the exact moment when his religious revelation dawned on him. He was driving his truck in Missoula, while listening to an Islamic sermon on tape.

"I didn't understand the tightness in my chest," Ferrara said. "I

was bitter and felt like my heart was turning cold. Suddenly, my heart felt touched by the beams of the sun and a tear fell from my eye."

Americans' understanding of Islam is largely ignorant of the social, political and historical tensions prevalent in the Middle East, said UM Professor Mehrdad Kia, originally of Iran. Kia now heads the Central and Southwest Asian Studies Center.

Western perceptions of Islam, he said, have been informed by acts of terror and aggression perpetrated by a tiny minority of Islamic extremists, such as the recent assassination of U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens in Libya.

Islam is the fastest growing religious group in the United States, Kia said, and has an increasing presence in Montana. Kia said Muslims fear marginalization in mainstream American culture and complain of being used as an easy scapegoat.

Anti-American violence in the Muslim world has dominated recent headlines because of a YouTube clip called "The Innocence of Muslims," which portrays the

Prophet Muhammad as a blood-thirsty pedophile.

UM professor Samir Bitar, who teaches Arabic studies, was born in Jerusalem and came to the United States at age 16. He explained that it is against Islamic principals to speak the names of any of the prophets in vain or to depict the Prophet Muhammad.

"Muslims take the Prophet as an exemplar and the highest level of piety is to lead your life in the ways of the Prophet," Bitar said. "Having said that, when people depict the Prophet in vulgar ways, it's very insulting not just to Muslims. It's an insult to humanity."

Professor Kia expressed outrage that a small group of Islamic radicals endangered the interests of all Libyans by killing the U.S. Ambassador, who had been a friend and advocate of the people. He said the media used the tragedy to paint an "us versus them" view of Middle Eastern relations.

"The large majority of Muslims didn't care to watch (the video) and recognized it for the piece of trash it was," he said. "Nothing in Islam justifies the killing of innocent human beings."



Abby Redfern/Montana Kaimin

Alina Calianu, who converted from Orthodox Christian to Islam last January, said she has complete peace about her choice because she knows she is doing the right thing.

THROUGH THEIR

FAR AWAY FROM THE turmoil in the Middle East, UM's Foreign Student and Scholar Services report nearly 140 students and faculty members at the University of Montana come from a Muslim-majority country. Islam is no longer a distant, inaccessible religion for UM students. The MSA house, owned by UM, acts as the Islamic center for the Muslim community in Missoula. Muslim Awareness Week begins Oct. 22, offering free lectures, movies and events for those interested in expanding their knowledge of this complex, multifaceted religion. Many of the worshippers at the MSA house are Middle Eastern foreign exchange students, but a growing minority is made up of Anglo converts and first-generation Americans.

Alina Calianu came to the United States from Romania six years ago to study as an exchange student in Havre. She graduated from UM in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in international business

marketing. Now she's working on a master's thesis on integrating culturally diverse individuals into mainstream American society through higher education.

A tiny woman with bright eyes, a ready smile and high-heeled boots, Calianu describes herself as motivated and goal-oriented. She converted to Islam in January 2011. Previously, she was a part of the Christian Orthodox Church like most Romanians.

"It didn't make sense anymore," she said. "When I looked into Islam I found answers. I'm a reasonable, logical person, so the scientific proof in the Quran drew me in."

Calianu said she knew her parents would disapprove of her choice.

"It was a bold move for me," she said. "I was scared and confused at first, but I just knew it was the right path, and the more I researched Islam, the more I fell in love with it."

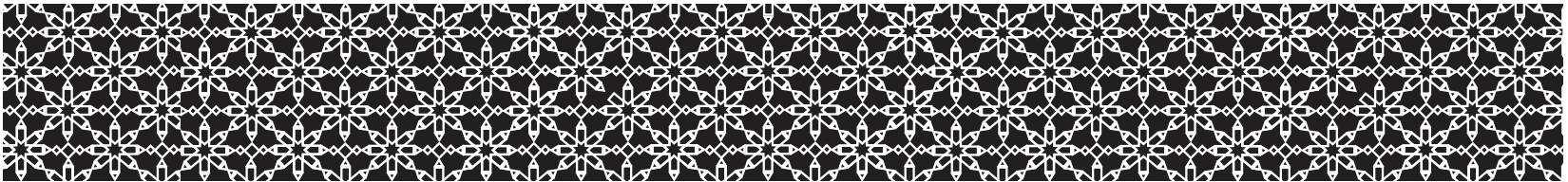
Now, Calianu said she has found her peace in Allah. Calianu



Salvatore Ferrara, left, leads Abdulaziz Almedaimigh, right, and other Muslims in prayer at the Muslim Student Association house Thursday afternoon.

Meghan Nolt/Montana Kaimin

R EYES



covers her hair with the hijab (headscarf) and wears modest clothing. She said when she looks back, she feels as if she was objectifying herself and now acts more respectably.

“You see so many people sucked into the trivialities,” she said. “If you focus on being a good Muslim, being kind to people, praying and remembering God, you’ll find that peace.”

Faisal Alanazi, a UM exchange student from Kuwait, said westerners frequently misunderstand the lives of women in Islamic countries. Stories of female oppression in Islamic countries are widely reported in the United States by diverse media outlets.

Alanazi, who has studied in Missoula for five years, said his five sisters have careers as translators, doctors and nurses. However, women are not required to work in Islam, but they are allowed to keep any money they earn, Alanazi said.

Another chapter of the Quran

reveals “heaven is at the feet of the mother.” The Muslim tradition does not blame Eve for the expulsion from the proverbial garden.

“I was scared and confused at first, but I just knew it was the right path and the more I researched Islam the more I fell in love with it.”

**Alina Calianu,
UM student**

Bitar said women have served as heads of state in many Islamic countries, such as Pakistan, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan and Senegal. Ferrara said the sexes each have their own responsibilities and rights

within their own domains.

“People say there is no gender equality in Islam, and they’re right,” Ferrara said. “There’s something better: equity.”

Ferrara said that men are responsible for providing for the family and women are charged with raising children. Calianu said she likes the way women are viewed in Islam.

“Women are like a jewel to take care of and protect,” Calianu said. “That’s how I see women in Islam. Very protected and very respected.”

Islam’s religious traditions are similar to that of Judaism and Christianity, Kia said. United by a common link to the prophet Abraham, they share some spiritual beliefs and claim the same sacred lands. Bitar said the actual tenants of Islam are often jumbled with fundamentalist sects’ radical opinions.

“If Americans want to understand Islam, they need to study Islam, not Muslims,” Bitar said.

Islam began in the seventh century in the deserts of what is now Saudi Arabia, after the establishment of Christianity and Judaism. Ferrara said Muslims accept that God sent several prophets to mankind, including Adam, David, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and finally Muhammad. Allah (the name of God in Islam) sent the angel Gabriel to a man named Muhammad ibn Abdullah, understood by Muslims to be the final and ultimate prophet, Ferrara said. He said the Prophet Muhammad recorded verbatim the revelations sent by Allah, and those recordings became the Quran, or the foundational text of Islam. Muslims consider the Quran as the word of God undistorted, perfect and the complete guide to following his will, Ferrara said.

“The human is always looking for guidance, in a guru or a person,” Ferrara said. “In Islam, it’s a direct, personal relation to the Quran. There are no intermediaries.”

Bitar said Allah sent the Prophet Muhammad detailed instructions on morality and appropriate social behavior.

“Human interpretation of the divine is highly flawed,” Bitar said. “So when Allah completed his message with Muhammad he gave us the details: what to eat, how to dress, how to handle inheritance.”

Ferrara said he believes that Islam is more challenging to follow than other religions. He said it’s not only a belief system — it’s also a lifestyle. He said the Quran prescribes almost every aspect of life.

“It’s the only religion that teaches you how to use the bathroom,” Ferrara said.

In the Islamic view, he said, this world is a prison for believers and a paradise for non-believers. Islam demands self-submission and obedience to Allah. Ferrara said he understands the Islamic concept of Jihad to mean putting forth effort and struggling with yourself.

See ISLAM, next page

ISLAM
From previous page

“People are people, and we always have to fight for what is important and what is going to fall by the wayside,” Ferrara said.

Traditional Islam intertwines with daily life. Ferrara said that a devout Muslim’s every waking moment should be in remembrance of Allah. Alanazi said a member of the family supervises any time an unmarried couple spends together. Dating is rare in Islamic countries. Premarital sex is strictly forbidden, Bitar said, and couples don’t touch or kiss before they are married.

Muslims must stop what they’re doing five times a day to pray in the direction of Mecca.

Before they make their prayers, they clean their hands and feet. In addition, Muslims traditionally do not eat pork or any meat that was not slaughtered according to the specifications found in the Quran. Pious Muslims dress modestly, and women are encouraged to cover their hair. Once a year, for the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast during daylight hours. Of course, Bitar said, like any religion, differ-

ent sects have interpreted the rules of Islam in different fashions. Some Muslims adhere to a very conservative reading of the Quran, and others allow a

“People say there’s no gender equality in Islam, and they’re right. There’s something better: Equity.”

Salvatore Ferrara,
President of the
Muslim Student
Association

looser understanding. Levels of devoutness vary depending on country, culture and personal practices.

“There is one, and only one, Islam. There are many Muslims,” Bitar said.

There are 50 Muslim-majority countries in the world, according to the Pew Research Center, and more than 1.3 billion Muslims. Although the Quran is traditionally recited in Arabic, the religion of Islam has spread all over the world.

“This perception of Islam as an Arab religion is very, very wrong. It’s a huge mistake,” said Serdar Poyraz, a professor of Middle Eastern history at UM.

The image of Muslims, or followers of Islam, as dark-skinned, Arabic-speaking people only encompasses a small minority of all Muslims, Poyraz said. The entire Arab ethnicity group consists of just 300 million people. Indonesia claims the largest Muslim population, and India alone hosts 170 million Muslim inhabitants. Islam has permeated the world far beyond its historical homeland and is second only to Christianity in number of adherents, according to the BBC.

“In general in the West, religion has been left behind,” Bitar said. “That’s not the case in Islamic countries. It’s part of almost every conversation.”

Muslims use Dhikr, or remembrances of Allah or the Prophet, in casual conversation. Bitar said that when Muslims talk in the present or the past, they close their statement with “praise be to Allah,” and when they speak in the future, they close with “Allah willing.” He said that this level of religious fervor sometimes makes Westerners nervous.



Abby Redfern/Montana Kaimin

Alina Calianu’s prayer rug lies in the basement area of the Mansfield Library. Calianu said when she first converted she had a hard time finding places on campus where she could pray, until she discovered the little prayer area in the basement.

DIFFERENT PERCEPTIONS



Abby Redfern/Montana Kaimin

Alina Calianu, a graduate student at the University, works in customer service at Dining Services. Caliana, a devout Muslim, said her workplace is great about accommodating her prayer practices (Salat), a Muslim practice that has her pray five times a day.

THE RELATIONSHIP between the Islamic world and the West has been strained since the first crusades of the 11th century, said Bitar. During the Middle Ages, Christian Europe was locked in conflict. Seeking an external enemy, Bitar said the West demonized Islam and Muslims.

When he first came to America 37 years ago, Bitar said he encountered more genuine interest in his religion. Americans would support his choice, referencing the pilgrims on the Mayflower who fled Europe to escape religious prosecution and established the United States, with one of the founding doctrines being freedom of religion. Now, he said, in the post-9/11 climate, questions posed come with built-in bias, approaching hostility.

Muslims in Missoula face a mixed bag of reactions. Ferrara said members of the MSA report hearing “This is America, go back to your country” or “terrorist” shouted outside their house. However, many local Muslims credit Montana as

being a more accepting place than most.

“Every Muslim in this country, or almost all, has had bad experiences,” Bitar said. “I’m very lucky that I’ve been here a long time and live in Montana. People are more curious than anything.”

For a woman, evidence of being Muslim is easily visible. Calianu, who works for Dining Services at UM, said her co-workers have been very accommodating of her conversion to Islam.

“This community is supportive and inclusive,” she said. “It’s very healthy for me. People might be confused if they see a woman wearing a hijab, but if you smile at them, they smile back.”

America’s image of the Middle East has been formed by key events, Poyraz said, from 9/11 to the Iranian Revolution of 1979 and the American Embassy hostage crisis that followed, as well as the attack on Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympics. From these acts of aggression against the United

States, Poyraz said, the perception of Muslims as hostile and savage spread throughout the American consciousness.

Kia said Americans are generally woefully ignorant of other cultures. He describes the average American awareness of Islamic cultures as a vacuum, which is filled only by TV reports depicting them as a monolith of fanaticism and terrorism.

"I don't equate Christianity to the Ku Klux Klan burning crosses or to David Koresh in Waco, Texas," he said. "Every religion has its fringe groups who use it for political and ideological reasons. In our perception of the Muslim world, they are just waiting to burn an American flag. Most Muslims have their own worries, their own problems."

Tyrannical regimes silence any protest and use Islam to justify their practices, Kia said. It is important to differentiate between political Islam and Islam as a personal religion, he said.

"Unfortunately, political Islam has a very unique and reactionary interpretation of Islam, which they try to impose on the rest of the Islamic world," Kia said.

Poyraz said after the breakup of the Islamic Empires following World War I, France and Britain divided sovereignty of the Muslim world, but by the end of World War II, the colonizing forces retreated from the Middle East, and the Islamic countries began to form independent states, generally autocratic dictatorships.

"The hatred of Western governments has nothing to do

with Islam, Christianity or Judaism. It is caused by the partitioning of other people's land into artificial, dysfunctional states," Kia said.

He said that some Muslims view what happened during the 19th and 20th centuries as a Christian-waged holy war against Muslims. He credits

"In our perception of the Muslim world, they are just waiting to burn an American flag. Most Muslims have their own worries, their own problems."

Mehrdad Kia

these ingrained memories for fundamentalist groups' continued success in recruiting members.

"Osama bin Laden and other leaders of Islamist movements use the discourse to remind Muslims of the humiliation of colonization, and they manipulate the raw sentiments of the street," Kia said.

Within these states there are also moderate Muslims and left-wing Muslims who advocate modern policies for the well-being of the people, Kia said. He said not all Islamic nations have fallen into this abuse of the division of church and state. Turkey, Indonesia and Malaysia have predominantly Muslim populations, but democratically elected leaders allow

for minority groups to practice their beliefs unmolested.

During the Cold War, American foreign policy with the Middle East centered on preventing Soviet states from forming. Poyraz said the U.S. government aided oil-rich nations with disregard for the governmental system in place or for the treatment of the people under these rulers. He said the U.S. supported unethical regimes such as Egyptian dictator Hosni Mubarak, Saddam Hussein and the current Saudi Arabian government, which Poyraz said has no respect for human rights.

"When the perception of the United States actually became negative was when American obsession with stability in the region turned to actual support of the autocratic regimes," Poyraz said.

Poyraz said this profit-centered American foreign policy fueled anger and aggression in the Middle East. However, Poyraz hurries to point out that, in his experience, Middle Easterners make a clear distinction between the American population and the actions of the American government.

Jane Smith wrote in her book "Islam in America" that a negative stereotype of Muslims may be deeply rooted in the American's European religious heritage, as far back as the times of Charlemagne. Although these fears appear rational to a populous indoctrinated by alarmist media coverage, the Quran does not condone violence or hate.

According to the Pew Research

See ISLAM, page 12



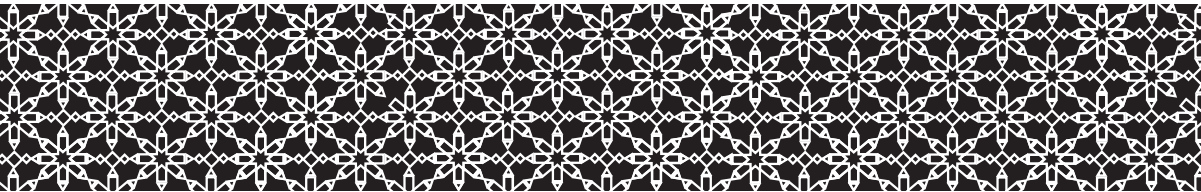
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Tim Goessman/Montana Kaimin

Salvatore Ferrara gives the weekly sermon at the Muslim Student Association house Friday.





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FOOTBALL

Griz look to break even,
face tough Thunderbirds**Austin Schempp**

Montana Kaimin

Don't let their record fool you. The Southern Utah Thunderbirds may have just one conference win, but their passing game is one of the best.

Southern Utah (2-4 overall, 1-2 BSC) is a new addition to the Big Sky Conference this season but not a new opponent to the Montana Grizzlies football team. In 2008 the Grizzlies rolled over the Thunderbirds — part of the Great West Conference — with a 46-10 win in Cedar City, Utah.

However, when the Thunderbirds travel to Washington-Grizzly Stadium for the first time ever Saturday, the team will be much different than they were in 2008.

SUU boasts preseason offensive MVP and All-Big Sky Conference quarterback Brad Sorensen, who leads an offense that averages 243.6 passing yards per game. Last week, the 6-foot-5 senior rattled the Sacramento State Hornets for 327 passing yards.

Montana head coach Mick Delaney said pressuring him should be tough because of his quick release.

"I really feel he's the best quarterback we've played from a quarterback definition," he said.

"He has a lot of experience and intelligence. He'll pick you apart if you let him throw."

Montana (3-3 overall, 1-2 BSC) can put pressure on the quarterback. Redshirt sophomore Zack Wagenmann came alive earlier this season against the Liberty Flames and continues to be a force on the defensive line. Wagenmann sacked Northern Colorado quarterback Seth Lobato twice in last week's 40-17 win over the Bears.

Behind the first line of defense sits Montana's secondary, a group that has struggled at times, allowing opponents crucial opportunities.

Eastern Washington quarterback Vernon Adams picked apart the Grizzly pass defense, throwing for 353 yards including the game-winning touchdown to a wide-open Brandon Kaufman.

However, last week against Northern Colorado three defensive backs recorded interceptions for the Grizzlies, fueling the first conference win.

The Thunderbirds' strength in the passing game should keep Montana's defensive backs busy.

Delaney said the secondary is improving each week, showcased by their aggressive performance last Saturday.



Austin Schempp/Montana Kaimin

Runningback Jordan Canada (26) of the Montana Grizzlies rushes as Evan Cook (56) of Eastern Washington is tackled by Jake Hendrickson (77) Saturday, Sept. 29 in Cheney Wash. The Griz face Southern Utah this Saturday at Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

"You can just see the progress," he said. "They really started to attack the ball. Those turnovers were huge. Defensively we were lights out."

On offense, Montana continues to run the football at will. The Griz compiled 294 rushing yards against UNC. Senior Peter Nguyen gained 159 yards on the ground and one touchdown.

Nguyen and Co. will face a Southern Utah run defense that allows opponents an average of 209 rushing yards per game.

Delaney said sophomore running back Jordan Canada will play this week, while senior Dan

Moore is still out with a high-ankle injury.

Protection of the football will again be a key factor if Montana wants to add another conference win to its resume. The Grizzlies made strides against Northern Colorado in protecting the football, an area that contributed to some losses this season.

Southern Utah knows all about the importance of turnovers. The Thunderbirds lead the Big Sky in turnover margin with 1.8 turnovers per game.

Grizzly Quarterback Trent McKinney said the team can't afford turnovers if they want to

continue their winning streak.

"For the most part, we didn't have any turnovers on offense," said McKinney, who threw for 142 yards and rushed for 56 against UNC. "Winning the turnover battle will get you the win or it can lose you a game."

After two road games, Montana returns to a raucous home crowd and a stadium that holds a 173-22 record for the Griz.

Kickoff for the game is set for 1:30 p.m. Max Media will televise the game for Missoula area residents on KTMF-ABC (channels 23 and 42).

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BIG SKY FOOTBALL

B.S. Predictions: Winner, winner, Big Sky dinner

Erik C. Anderson
Montana Kaimin

This week, we'll be featuring a guest prediction on the Grizzlies from our own, venerable Arts & Culture editor, Brooks Johnson. While his football knowledge may be questionable, his yelling-obscurities-at-TVs credentials are on point. Here's Brooks' look into his crystal ball:

Southern Utah University (2-4 overall, 1-2 Big Sky Conference) vs University of Montana (3-3, 1-2)

BJ: It's lucky game No. 7 for the Griz, and the dice will definitely roll in favor of them over Southern Utah at Washington-Grizzly Stadium this weekend. With a reinvigorated offense after last week's rush-driven win over Northern Colorado and a 4-1 series record over the T-Birds, the Griz will drive them right off a cliff. But Montana's defense has been shaky all season, so it won't be a blowout by any means.

PREDICTION:

Griz win, 21-17.
Thanks, Brooks.
On to the rest of the picks.

No. 16 Northern Arizona University (4-1 overall, 2-0 Big Sky Conference) vs North Dakota (3-3, 1-2)

The Northern Arizona University Lumberjacks look to maintain their four-game winning streak momentum this weekend against North Dakota in Grand Forks, N.D.

'Jack junior running back Zach Bauman has been the key cog in the NAU offense this season. Bauman is the

No. 2 runner in the Big Sky, rumbling for 118 yards a game with the most rushing touchdowns of any back this season at seven.

Despite a two-game losing streak, University of North Dakota counters with an efficient, balanced offensive attack. North Dakota owns the second-best offense in the Big Sky, piling up 453 yards every contest. Carrying a large part of the offensive load are Jake Miller and Mitch Sutton, who have rushed for 600 yards combined.

NoDak quarterback Marcus Hendrickson has thrown for 1,287 yards and 14 touchdowns this season, while only tossing three interceptions in six games.

BOTTOM LINE:

This game has a making for offensive fireworks, but NAU is too poised to let the road test slip away.

PREDICTION:

'Jacks nail North Dakota, 31-21.

UC Davis (2-4 overall, 1-2 Big Sky Conference) vs Idaho State University (1-4, 0-2)

A few of the Big Sky's bottom-feeders match up this Saturday as the Aggies from University of California-Davis travel to Pocatello, Idaho, to battle the Bengals from Idaho State University.

The Bengals are dragging their tails, going into the weekend with a three-game losing streak and defeated conference record. Last weekend, Portland State eviscerated ISU, winning 77-10 in Oregon and helping the Bengals earn

the conference's worst defense, yielding 51.6 points per game.

En route to the blowout, ISU's sophomore offensive lineman Nick Beckman and freshman defensive back Taison Manu got a little too testy with Portland State and were handed one-game suspensions (with Beckman suspended for the first half) from the Big Sky.

Luckily, with a good crushing comes opportunity to rack up offensive statistics, and Bengal signal-caller Kevin Yost has taken advantage. Yost has boosted the Bengals to a league-leading passing attack that posts 376.2 yards per game.

This bodes well for the Bengals, as the Aggies won't be at full strength on defense either this Saturday, with sophomore linebacker Stephen Pitts suspended after a dangerous hit.

BOTTOM LINE:

Two bad defenses means Yost will continue torching secondaries.

PREDICTION:

Bengals blast Aggies, 35-17.

No. 6 Eastern Washington University (4-1 overall, 3-0 Big Sky Conference) vs No. 2 Montana State University (6-0, 3-0)

The headliner to this weekend's Big Sky drama is the tilt of Top 10 powers No. 6 Eastern Washington University Eagles and No. 2 Montana State University Bobcats.

MSU boasts an unblemished record and the conference's top scoring offense at 37 points per game. The Cats are led by Walter Payton Award candidate DeNarius McGhee,

who last week against UC Davis slung the rock 41 times, completing 27 passes for 334 yards and a touchdown. He added 30 yards rushing.

The Eagles also have a dynamic offense, thanks to freshman quarterback Vernon Adams, who went 12-of-15 for 151 yards and four touchdowns in a 55-17 win over North Dakota last weekend. Adams' day was made easy thanks to a stifling return game by Shaquille Hill. Hill returned a kick 99 yards

for a touchdown and gave Adams a short field several times throughout the day.

BOTTOM LINE:

The Cats stymie EWU's smooth-operating offense and special teams, continue their winning ways, win and earn serious considerations as the No. 1 team from the Roots Sports Top 25 crew.

PREDICTION:

Cats claw Eagles, 44-28.
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2	4	9	1	3	6	7	5	8
9	5	3	8	1	2	6	7	4
6	7	4	3	9	5	8	2	1
8	1	2	7	6	4	3	9	5
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HALLOWEEN

From page 3

party four years ago. "I know that people just want to have fun, but I think they forget to be racially sensitive," she said. "I don't think that people's feelings take a break on a holiday. If it's something that affects a race, then to me that's a big deal."

Melanie Lerum, owner of the Missoula Spirit Halloween Store, said her store tries to be sensitive toward all cultures. The store does not carry any Native American costumes but does carry other ethnically stereotyped outfits such as Geisha kimonos and turbans.

"In life you are always going to have some people that are negative and insensitive ... but most of our customers are really nice and well-meaning," Lerum said.

She said the parent company Spirit Halloween has pulled racially insensitive costumes in the past.

Lerum said her intent for Halloween is that for it to be a communal celebration — and dressing up should just be for fun.

jessica.roden@umontana.edu



Tim Goessman/Montana Kaimin

Salvatore Ferrara faces toward Mecca as he leads Muslims in prayer Friday at the Muslim Student Association house.

ISLAM

From page 9

Center, Americans have seen a slow trend away from organized religion in the past decades, which perhaps is a clue about our changing perception of the role of religion in society.

However, the Pew Center predicts a world Muslim population of 2.2 billion by 2030, a trend impossible to ignore in the United States, or in Missoula.

Every Friday afternoon, a member of the MSA chants in Arabic,

calling the faithful to prayer, a ritual performed the same way all over the world. Ferrara stands before the congregation, offering words of encouragement to those struggling to live by the ways of the Prophet. The believers kneel and place their

foreheads on the floor in submission to Allah.

"I don't even like the word 'religion' anymore; it's so divisive," said Bitar. "I just tell people I'm a man of faith."

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